

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION "M")

10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DR., TX
PRESIDING: GLENN JARIVS, CHAIR

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute and a quorum was present. The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman
Jim Darling, Vice Chairman
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary
Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee
Tomas Rodriguez, Executive Committee
John Bruciak
Dennis Goldsberry
Ella de la Rosa
Sonny Hinojosa
Sonia Lambert
Donald K. McGhee
Ray Prewett
Carlos Garza
Jorge Barrera
Judge Joe Rathmell
Jaime Flores

Category

Other
River Authorities
Public
Agriculture
Municipalities
Municipalities
Water Utilities
Electric Generating Utility
Water Districts
Water Districts
Industries
Agriculture
Small Business
Municipalities
Counties
Environmental

The following members were not in attendance:

Commissioner Joel Quintanilla

Counties

2. Consider Nominating Committee Recommendation RE: Voting Member Vacancies in the Environmental Category

Chairman Jarvis stated that Mr. Jaime Flores, Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Watershed Coordinator, submitted a letter of interest in serving in the Environmental Category. ***Ms. Mary Lou Campbell made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Jaime Flores in the environmental category. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Meeting of June 1, 2011

Vice Chair Jim Darling made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2011 as presented. Mr. Don McGhee seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Meeting of June 29, 2011

Vice Chair Jim Darling made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2011 as presented. Mr. Dennis Goldsberry seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear Public Comment

There being no Public Comments the Chairman moved to the next item.

5. Presentation and Consideration RE: Re-Allocation of Funds for Scope of Work

Mr. Dave Anderson, Black & Veatch Corporation (B&V) was recognized and informed the Board that B&V staff recommended the shift of funds from task 4D to 4B. Task 4B was "Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies (WMSs)", and 4D was "Evaluation and Selection of WMSs". Staff considered it more efficient to identify the WMSs prior to spending funds to evaluate them. Ms. Connie Townsend was recognized and added that in this part of the contract item 4D was only partially funded in order to get the first steps completed, when TWDB staff receives their legislative budget figures for the rest of the plan, more funds will be allotted for item 4D. Ms. Townsend did not anticipate any issue with this shift in funds and recommended a caveat in the motion to allow the Executive Committee to make minor changes should the need arise. ***Upon conclusion of discussion Vice Chair Jim Darling made a motion to approve the re-allocation of funds and to allow the Executive Committee to determine any minor revisions necessary. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Consider Approval of Contracts

A. TWDB

Chairman Jarvis stated that this is the contract between the TWDB and the LRGVDC. ***Mr. Dennis Goldsberry made a motion to approve the contract with TWDB. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Black & Veatch Corporation

Mr. Bob Fulbright made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the contract with Black & Veatch Corporation, with the revisions to the allocations. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded it, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

7. Status Reports

A. Financial Report

Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and reported that \$28,902.00 of the requested \$57,349.00 Local Fund Contribution Match funds had been received to date. It was the consensus of the Board that second notices should be sent out to collect the balance pending.

B. Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7, 13 & 16 Under HB 1763 (2005)

There was no new information to report at this time.

C. Discussion of IBWC Water Accounting at Fort Quitman

Mr. Herman Settemeyer was recognized and stated that regarding the Fort Quitman issue, U.S./Mexico relations are not going well at this time, but research continued. Mr. Settemeyer mentioned that TCEQ staff had two new engineers that will be tasked with updating the 2008 Water Availability Model (WAM) with date for 2011.

D. Reports RE: Other Water Planning Groups

1. Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N

Mr. Jarvis noted that all the other RWPGs were doing the same thing as Region M, and mentioned that he read that by September TWDB staff was scheduled to present a draft of the State Water Plan to the Board and that there would be a comment period for RWPGs to compare their Regional Plans with the State Plan to check for consistency.

Mr. Jarvis suggested this as an agenda item for the next meeting after September.

E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region

No new plans had been received.

F. Discussion RE: SB 660

Ms. Townsend was recognized and stated that since the passage of SB 660 by the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) and representatives from Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) had begun inquiring about how the new RWPG membership requirements will be implemented. Ms. Townsend suggested an amendment to the Groups bylaws that will include Groundwater Management Area representation from this local GCDs.

8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Ms. Connie Townsend was recognized and stated that the contracts need to be negotiated and executed by August 31, 2011, and TWDB staff will mail contracts to Political Subdivisions.

B. IBWC

Mr. Rodolfo Montero was recognized and reported that the Mexican section was in the final steps of transferring operation of El Morillo Drain to CILA, provided the status of the progress of the levee improvements, and on the water loss related to salinity levels in the Rio Grande related to non-functioning of the pumps at El Morillo Drain.

C. TCEQ

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported on the water deliveries from Mexico, the U.S. and Mexican reservoir levels, the drought conditions, and the status of the salinity monitoring stations for El Morillo Drain. Mr. Yarrito added that negotiations for operation of El Morillo Drain to be turned over to CILA were going well and that this will hopefully happen at the end of August 2011; in addition he reported that pump #2 has been repaired, but pump #1 was not operational.

1. Status of Water Availability Model (WAM) for Mexico

This item was covered under item 7.C.

D. TPWD

Mr. Willie Cupit was unable to attend and no report was provided.

9. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Group to not meet in September and schedule the next meeting for October 5, 2011 at 10: 30 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transit Center in Weslaco.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary